

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05219 160839Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----086021 161044Z /10

R 151447Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7273
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5219

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/VELIOTES AND AID/NOOTER AND WHEELER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECIN, US, JO, IS

SUBJECT: JORDAN POTASH PROJECT

REF: (A) AMMAN 3827, (B) TEL AVIV 4427, (C) STATE 137357

1. AS STATED IN REF B, WE BELIEVE THAT GOI AND DEAD SEA WORKS WOULD BE PLEASED TO COOPERATE WITH JORDAN IN DEAD SEA POTASH EXTRACTION. WE DO NOT PERCEIVE A NOTABLE DEGREE OF HOSTILITY ON THE PART OF THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT DIRECTED ESPECIALLY AT JORDAN (AS SUGGESTED IN PARA 9, REF A), AND WE BELIEVE THAT A U.S. GOOD OFFICES ROLE ON DEAD SEA COOPERATION COULD BE AS SUCCESSFUL AS THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE U.S. REGARDING THE YARMOUK DAM PROJECT. DEAD SEA COOPERATION IS A STRAIGHT GOI-GOJ BILATERAL ISSUE, WITHOUT SUBJECTS SUCH AS THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK TO COMPLICATE DISCUSSIONS, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THE ISRAELI S WOULD BE QUITE WILLING TO FOLLOW UP THE JORDANIAN PROPOSAL. AS FOR SECRECY, ALTHOUGH THE MAQARIN TALKS HAVE SHOWN THAT LEAKS CAN BE AVOIDED, IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT IN THIS CASE BECAUSE OF THE NECESSARY INVOLVEMENT OF WORKING LEVEL PERSONNEL ON BOTH SIDES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 05219 160839Z

2. THE GOI WOULD VERY MUCH PREFER TO BASE GOI-GOJ DEAD SEA COOPERATION ON DIRECT CONTACTS, BUT PROBABLY REALISTICALLY RECOGNIZES THAT THIS IS NOT CURRENTLY IN THE CARDS. NONETHELESS, DUE TO THE HIGHLY TECHNICAL NATURE OF THIS FORM OF COOPERATION, THE GOI WOULD BE LIKELY TO EXPECT THE U.S. CONTRACTOR OF THE GOJ TO BE

IN CONTACT WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS OF THE DEAD SEA WORKS. (WE NOTE THAT VARDI OF TAHAL RECENTLY VISITED HARZA IN CHICAGO, AND HE TERMED HIS DISCUSSIONS ON THE MAJARIN DAM AS VERY USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE. HIS FAVORABLE VIEW SHOULD BE SEEN AS INDICATIVE OF FUTURE ISRAELI INTEREST IN THIS FORM OF RELATIONSHIP.)

3. SHOULD THE U.S. DECIDE TO ACCEPT A ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY ON DEAD SEA COOPERATION, AND AFTER AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FROM THE GOJ TO EMBASSY AMMAN, WE WOULD SUGGEST AN INITIAL APPROACH HERE TO MOSHE ALON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MFA (AND OUR MAIN CONTACT ON THE MAQARIN DAM), TO CONVEY THE JORDANIAN INTEREST IN SOME FORM OF DEAD SEA COOPERATION AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE INFORMAL GOOD OFFICES. FOLLOWING THIS GENERAL FIRST APPROACH TO THE GOI, AND ASSUMING A FAVORABLE GOI RESPONSE, WE COULD FOLLOW UP WITH THE GOJ'S IDEAS ON THE FORMS OF COOPERATION, COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS, AND THE CONTACTS IT HAS IN MIND.

4. SHOULD WE GET THIS FAR THERE WOULD STILL BE SOME STIFF BARGAINING IN ESTABLISHING A COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEAD SEA WORKS AND THE JORDANIAN REPRESENTATIVE. DESPITE THE LARGE GOI EQUITY, DEAD SEA WORKS IS A COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE WHOSE MAIN INTEREST

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 05219 160839Z

IS USING KNOW-HOW TO MAKE MONEY.
DUNNIGAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POTASSIUM, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV05219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770253-1288
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770751/aaaabrynn.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7531c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 AMMAN 3827, 77 TEL AVIV 4427, 77 STATE 137357
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1843410
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDAN POTASH PROJECT
TAGS: ECIN, US, JO, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7531c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009